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Typhoid fever in Gelsenkirchen.

[Clipping from the Berlin Lokal-Anzeiger, October 15, 1901.]

BERLIN, GERMANY, *October 16, 1901.*

The epidemic of typhoid fever in the Gelsenkirchen district, unfortunately, continues to spread. How serious the situation is regarded may be judged from the fact that Prof. Robert Koch has received instructions from the ministry of education to proceed to the spot.

We have received the following private telegram: *Bochum*, October 15. Typhoid fever is spreading in Gelsenkirchen. Yesterday 40 cases were registered. To-morrow morning the President of Westphalia and Professor Koch will arrive, the latter with instructions from the ministry of education to investigate the causes for the spread of the disease. The board of directors of the waterworks have made an allowance of a quarter of a million marks for the communes smitten with the disease. Special sanitary regulations have been issued for the recruits in the respective districts.

FRANK H. MASON.

Epidemic of scarlet fever at Bremen.

BREMEN, GERMANY, *October 10, 1901.*

SIR: Bremen has been visited here of late by quite an epidemic of scarlet fever. As in all larger German cities, there have always been sporadic cases in Bremen, averaging from 200 to 500, but the type, commonly, is not of the malignant order, as only 15 to 20 cases of death are reported as resulting from this disease. Not until the month of August did the reports of the health officers of this city show any increase in the number of scarlet fever cases, but then the disease began to spread to an alarming degree. During the months of August and September not less than 386 cases were reported, and 56 cases terminated in death.

Of the patients that died about 50 per cent were children at the age of from 1 to 5 years, and only 4 were over 20 years of age. However, the local authorities in the health and sanitary department of this city, did not deem it necessary to close any of the schools, as the children would be more apt to spread the contagion when allowed to romp and play in the streets than they would by attending school.

At last accounts the epidemic, if it may be so called, is well under check, and the number of cases is reported to be on the decrease from day to day.

Respectfully,

HENRY W. DIEDERICH,
United States Consul.

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

GUATEMALA.

Report from Livingston—Fruit port.

LIVINGSTON, GUATEMALA, *October 16, 1901.*

SIR: I have to make the following report of the conditions and transactions at this port during the week ended October 9, 1901:

Present officially estimated population, 3,000. Number of cases and deaths from yellow fever during the week, none; number of cases and deaths from smallpox during the week, none; number of cases and

deaths from typhus fever during the week, none; number of cases and deaths from cholera during the week, none; number of cases and deaths from plague during the week, none; number of deaths from other causes during the week, none. Prevailing diseases, malarial. General sanitary condition of this port and the surrounding country during the week, good.

Bill of health was issued to the following vessel: October 16, steamship *Esther*.

Respectfully,
W. K. FORT,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.
 The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.

Report from Honolulu—Plague-infected rat found on the steamship Waialeale.

HONOLULU, H. I., *October 14, 1901.*

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that on October 11 several dead rats were found in the hold of the steamer *Waialeale* of the Inter-Island Steamship Company. The matter was reported to Dr. Pratt of the board of health, who procured 1 of the rats and had it examined bacteriologically with the result that plague bacilli were found.

As the result of a conference between the manager of the steamship company, Dr. Pratt, of the board of health, and this office, the vessel was sent to the channel wharf, where the work of disinfecting her in accordance with our regulations has been commenced. The vessel is now anchored in midstream undergoing her preliminary disinfection.

The master of the vessel stated that dead rats had been found off and on for the past three weeks. The number all told has been placed approximately at 13. The vessel plies between Honolulu and certain small ports on the island of Kauai. While at Honolulu she has been lying either at the Inter-Island or the Pacific Mail wharves. Rats have been noticed frequently of late on these wharves, while they are said to have disappeared from these places while plague was present here on 2 previous occasions.

There has been no suspicious illness in Honolulu since July 17. The officers and crew of the *Waialeale* are in good health at this writing; this, too, notwithstanding the fact that the native crews always go about with bare feet and perform all of the work of loading and unloading. I will promptly report any new developments in this connection and will forward by every steamer a note to Surgeon Carmichael giving the health status of this place.

Respectfully,
L. E. COFER,
Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.,
Chief Quarantine Officer, Hawaiian Islands.
 The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.